

# *A Unique Surveillance Tool For Targeting Power Line Contact Information*



Presented by:

Tom Broderick & Paul A. Satti

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CONSTRUCTION  
SAFETY COUNCIL

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# *The Problem*



- Overhead power line contacts consistently account for a significant number of fatalities.
  - 1995–1999 average = 134 (occupational)
  - 2000 total = 128 (occupational)
- How are non-occupational utility contacts reported?
- How are accidents that do not result in personal injury being reported?

# *Existing Sources of Information*

- Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI)
- Integrated Management Information System (IMIS) OSHA 170-Form
- The National Traumatic Occupational Fatalities (NTOF)
- All only show what takes place during the course of employment.
- Both depend on a fatality or injury to occur.

# *Purpose of Presentation*



- Inform participants about another surveillance tool that compliments existing injury/fatality counts.
- Show how data can be used to identify high risk activities and problem areas in a particular region.

# *Benefits From Utilizing This Type of Reporting System?*

- Understanding the nature of utility accidents within a particular region.
  - Target intervention programs for:
    - Construction
    - Utility
    - Agriculture
    - Community

# Illinois Commerce Commission

George Ryan, Governor

- Request copies under Freedom of Information Act.
- Form U-1 & U-2
- \$.25 per copy
- Total of 5850 pages
- Copying fee of \$1462.50



# *Scope of Research*

- Accident reports were gathered from the following Illinois utilities (1995 – 1999).
  - Commonwealth Edison
  - South Beloit Water Gas & Electric
  - Mt. Carmel Public Utility Company
  - Union Electric Company
  - Interstate Power Company
  - Central Illinois Public Service Company
  - Illinois Power Company
  - Mid American
  - Central Illinois Light Company

## *Data Analysis; U-1 Form*



- Date of accident.
- City or place where accident happened.
- Estimated damage to property, if any.
- Description of persons killed or injured.
- Nature and cause of accident.



# *Construction Safety Council Intervention Program*



Specific Focus: Overhead Power Line Contacts

## **Step 1**

Determine which accidents were a result of contacting overhead power lines.

## **Step 2**

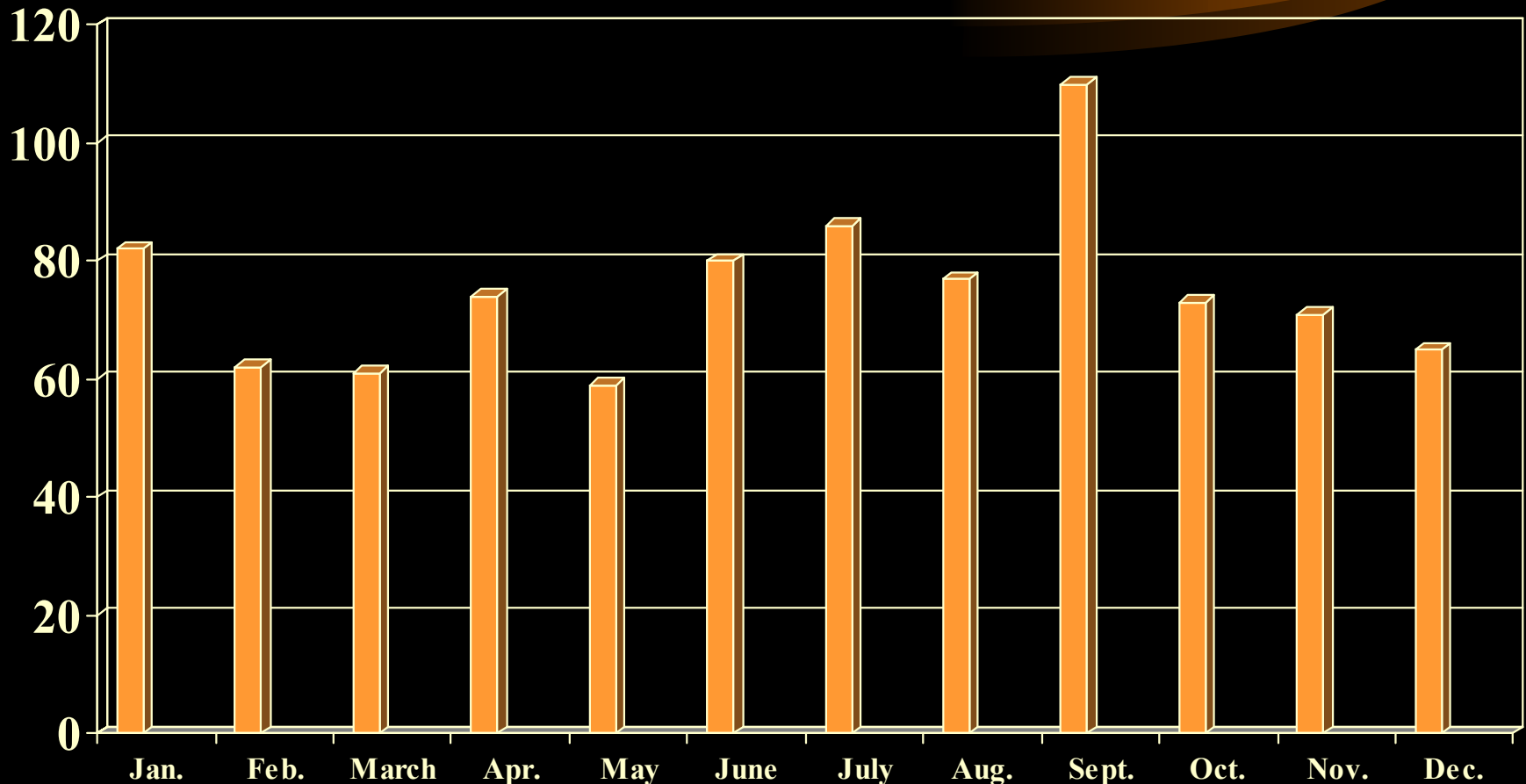
Input data from selected accident reports using Microsoft Excel.

# *Overhead Power Line Intervention*



- Total of 900 accidents were reported to the ICC as a result of overhead power line contacts.
- An emphasis was placed on determining when and how these accidents occurred.

# *Number of Overhead Power Line Contacts by Month (1995 – 1999)*



# *Top Ten Cause of Overhead Power Line contact*

1. Trucks; including, dump, semi, garbage, paving and cement (241).
2. Tree or branch ( 58).
3. Crane or boom truck (38).
4. Ladder (9).
5. Antenna, pipe or pole (9).
6. Excavating equipment (8).
7. Plane or crop duster (6).
8. Car or vehicle (5).
9. Farm equipment (4).
10. Aluminum fascia or cutter (4).

*Note: 464, cause unreported*

## *Others That Made the List*

- Endloader
- Mining equipment
- Snow plow
- Trains
- Balloons
- Carnival ride
- Chain from trench box
- Conveyor boom
- Debris
- Fence
- Forklift
- Grain drill
- Guy wire
- Manlift
- Portable classroom
- Tarp

# *Power Line Awareness Permit*

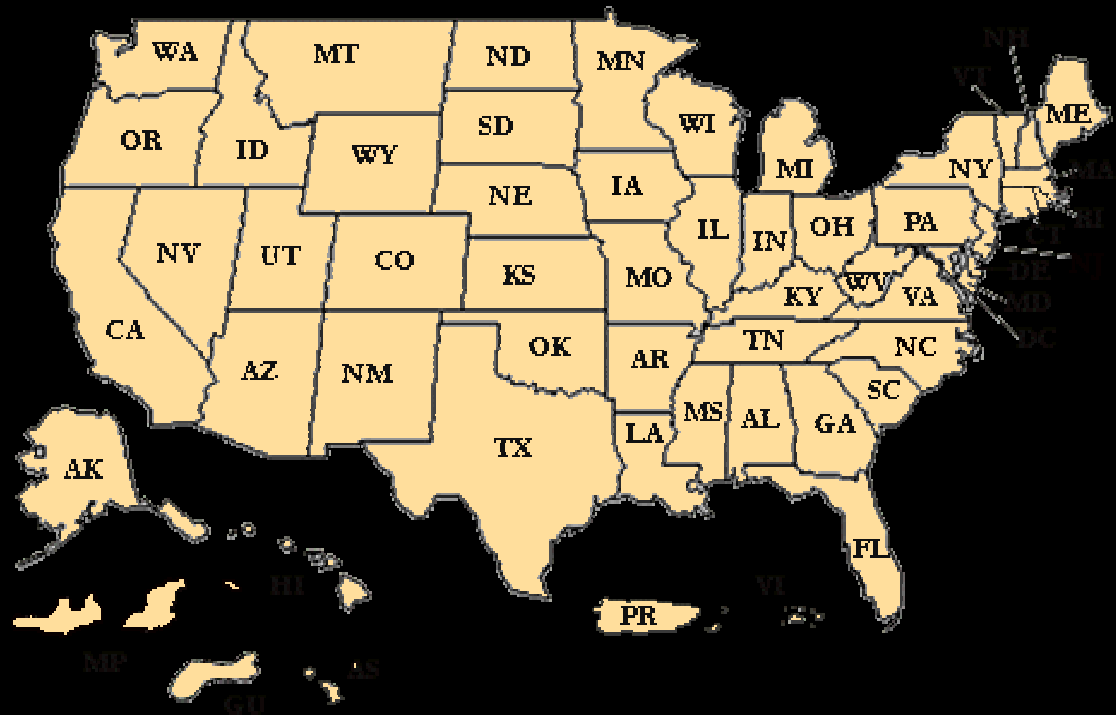
- Developed to help contractors identify their high risk activities and formulate a systematic approach to power line safety.
  - Similar approach used in confined space, LOTO, and underground work (one-call system).



### State Public Utilities Commissions'

# National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners

[www.naruc.org](http://www.naruc.org)



# *Limitations of Research Data*



- No uniform reporting system for identifying types of equipment which caused accident.
- Cost to have Commerce Commission duplicate reports.



*Thank You*

